



Texas Department of Public Safety Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

Event Name	Winter Weather
Date	January 17, 2018
Time	0800 – 0800
Operational Period	January 16, 2018 – January 17, 2018
Report Number	#2 Final

Regions Affected	
DPS Regions Affected	Regions 1, 2, 3 and 6
DDCs Active	5, 6, 12, 14, 15, 16A, 16B, 16D, 17, 18B, 20

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: Numerous school and government offices will have a delayed opening due to the winter weather. A minor ridge of high pressure is forecast to bring dry weather to most of Texas Wednesday. As this storm moves southeastward into central and south Texas Wednesday night and Thursday some precipitation may again develop, precipitation amounts are forecast to be light.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Protect life and property.
2. Support rapid & effective response.
3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

NWS Amarillo: Expecting another very cold morning as the residual Arctic air results in single digit temperatures for the area. Wind chill readings could fall below zero.

NWS Austin/San Antonio: Unseasonably cold temperatures are expected across South Central Texas today with highs 21 to 27 degrees below normal, ranging from the mid 30s east to lower 40s west. Skies will range from sunny in the east to mostly cloudy out west. Northeast winds of 5 to 10 mph will create wind chills in the single digits north to teens south this morning.

NWS Brownsville: Cloudy and cold conditions will be expected today across the Rio Grande Valley and the rest of Deep South Texas. Expect for the remaining sub-freezing temperatures this morning to rise gradually into the mid to upper 30s this afternoon with wind chills or feels like temperatures still in the upper 20s and 30s. Patchy icy spots will be possible across the roadways this morning, especially on any bridges or overpasses.

NWS Corpus Christi: Mostly cloudy and cold with highs only reaching the upper 30s to around 40. North to northeast winds 10 to 15 mph across the eastern portions of South Texas and around 10 mph across the west.

NWS El Paso: Though our cold front is long gone, its affects linger, with chilly temperatures continuing on Wednesday. Highs will continue around 15 degrees below normal. A weak disturbance will bring some clouds over the Borderland late Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, with skies becoming sunnier by afternoon.

NWS Fort Worth/Dallas: It will be mostly sunny and cold today with highs in the 30s. Winds will be northeasterly at 5 to 10 mph.

NWS Houston/Galveston: Temperatures are expected to remain below freezing across much of the area until early this afternoon. Icy conditions from any residual moisture on area roads, overpasses and bridges will persist this morning resulting in a continuation of road closures. Dangerous and life threatening wind chills in the low to mid-teens are not expected to reach 30 degrees until this afternoon.

NWS Lake Charles: Clear and sunny but cold. A high in the low-mid 30's across the region. Wind chill will make temperatures feel more like in the 20s. Icy road conditions early should improve by afternoon. North winds 5-10 mph gusting to 20.

NWS Lubbock: The cold air of the last couple of days will begin to be eroded out of the region today but will not fully exit the area until Thursday. By Friday and Saturday an upper level storm system taking shape over California and Nevada will result in breezy southwest winds and much warmer weather for the South Plains region with highs pushing toward and into the 70s.

NWS Midland: Highs expected in West Texas to top out only in the 30s and 40s. Tonight, lows will drop into the teens and 20s, with a light wintry mix of light rain/light freezing rain/light snow possible from the Van Horn Area and the Davis Mountains southeastward across the Marfa Plateau, Big Bend Area, and into Terrell county. Little to no accumulation is expected.

NWS San Angelo: A layer of clouds will linger this morning to the west of a Mertz on to Sonora line. The clouds should clear by the afternoon. After record-breaking cold this morning, temperatures should climb above freezing to near 40 degrees.

NWS Shreveport: Clear skies and a light north wind tonight will result in excellent radiational cooling. The cold Arctic air mass remains in place across the Four-State Region and that is validated by overnight temperatures expected to plummet into the teens. Any lingering ice on roadways will be hard-pressed to melt given daytime temperatures today struggling to reach the freezing mark, and expected overnight temperatures dropping into the teens. Furthermore, patrons should take precautions such as covering exposed outdoor pipes and bringing pets indoors.

Region 1 (Includes DDCs 4A, 4B, 5, 6, and 22)

DDC 4A – Hurst (Includes: Denton, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somervell, Tarrant and Wise Counties) Decreased activation level to Level IV (Normal Operations).

DDC 4B – Garland (Includes: Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Hunt, Kaufman, Navarro and Rockwall Counties) Decreased activation level to Level IV (Normal Operations). North Texas Tollway

Authority (NTTA) has activated their snow and ice plan and is operating the maintenance EOC for the duration of the incident.

DDC 5 – Mt. Pleasant (Includes Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River and Titus Counties) Increased activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness).

DDC 6 – Tyler (Includes: Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt and Wood Counties) Increased activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness). Tyler Pounds Airport has closed due to icy conditions. Emergency shelters were opened along I-20. TxDOT worked to get sand on the roadways.

DDC 22 – Sherman (Includes: Cooke, Fannin and Grayson Counties) Decreased activation level to Level IV (Normal Operations).

Region 2 (Includes DDCs 13, 14, 15, 16A, 16B, 16C, and 16D)

DDC 14 – Lufkin (Includes: Angelina, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, and Tyler Counties) Increased activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness).

DDC 15 – Beaumont (Includes: Hardin, Jefferson and Orange Counties) Increased activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness). Jefferson and Orange Counties increased activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness). Many roadways and bridges are still iced over causing hazardous driving conditions.

DDC 16A – Houston (Includes: Chambers and Harris Counties) Increased activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness).

DDC 16B – Texas City (Includes: Brazoria and Galveston Counties) Increased activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness). Disaster Declaration received for Galveston County.

DDC 16D – Rosenberg (Includes: Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Matagorda, and Wharton Counties) Increased activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness).

Region 3 (Includes DDCs 19, 20, 21, and 24)

DDC 20 – Corpus Christi (Includes: Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio Counties) Increased activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness). The City of Corpus Christi, Kleberg and Nueces Counties increased activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness).

Region 6 (Includes DDCs 11, 12, 17, 18A, 18B, and 23)

DDC 11 – Waco (Includes: Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and McLennan Counties) City of Groesbeck in Limestone County has reported a natural gas outage.

DDC 12 – Austin (Includes: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis and Williamson Counties) Increased activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness). A Disaster Declaration has been submitted by Williamson County for winter weather.

DDC 17 – Victoria (Includes: Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca and Victoria Counties) Increased activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness). Victoria County reported ice on bridges of US 59, Hwy 77 at the Guadalupe River, and ice on the overpasses of Loop 463 (Zac Lentz). DeWitt County FM 111 at Hwy 183 reportedly had iced over, and Hwy 183 near TxDOT overpass has iced over. Gonzales County reported they had ice on all bridges and roadways.

DDC 18B – AARC/Bexar County (Includes: Atascosa, Bexar, Karnes, McMullen and Wilson Counties) Increased activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness).

STATE AGENCY REPORTS TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RESPONDING AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS

Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM): The State Operations Center conducted a winter weather conference call with selected state emergency management council agencies and National Weather Service Offices at 10:00 AM Tuesday morning. District Coordinators in impacted and potentially impacted areas are coordinating with volunteer agencies, local government agencies and also assisting with coordination of winter weather conference calls.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Texas Highway Patrol (THP): THP Troopers responded to 437 severe winter weather-related crashes in DPS Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7. Of the 437 crash responses, THP Troopers investigated 318 weather-related crashes. Eighteen DDCs were activated, with fourteen at Level III (Increased Readiness) and four at Level IV (Normal Conditions).

Region	Reponses	Investigations
1	142	97
2	167	117
3	4	4
4	2	2
5	117	98
6	5	0
Total	437	318

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT): TxDOT continues to respond to winter weather threats across the region. Crews are mobilized performing pretreating and deicing work along the I-35 corridor from north of Dallas/Fort Worth, south to San Antonio, along the I-20 corridor from Dallas east to the State line, along the I-10 corridor from San Antonio east to the State Line and the I-45 corridor from Dallas to Galveston Island. Additional crews are working the southern part of the State from Corpus Christi to Brownsville. TxDOT continues to monitor for STAR requests and respond as needed.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS): TFS provided two agency personnel staffing the Emergency Service Branch Director position for day and night shift. TFS personnel are monitoring the situation and standing by, ready to support on-going operations. TFS has four road graders and crews available for activation to assist road clearance operations as needed.

Texas Department of Health and Human Services (DSHS): DSHS is monitoring resource requests and potential issues statewide through the Public Health Regions (PHRs) affected.

Texas Military Department (TMD): TMD activated and later demobilized two personnel that were supporting the SOC.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD): TPWD notified Game Wardens statewide and are actively monitoring weather conditions and standing by to provide assistance with high profile and 4 wheel drive vehicles.

American Red Cross (ARC): Providing support to warming center in Hill County and Fort Worth in the event there is an overflow of people at the local homeless shelters. The City of Austin cold weather shelter activated, supporting city and VOAD partners including the Salvation Army with materials. Services at shelter will provide sleeping accommodations only. Hours of operation will be 8 PM – 8 AM on days requested by Emergency Managers. The public messaging uses the phrase Warming Center, but because sleeping services are provided, they are labeled as shelters by the Red Cross. Shelter trailers throughout the state have been restocked and ready to support shelter activity when activated. Shelter trailers are stocked for 50 and 100 person capacity at shelters.

- Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church 2801 Conti Street Houston
- Edcouch-Elsa High School Hwy 107 & Mile 4 Road West Elsa
- Mercedes Saferoom/Community Recreation 1202 N Vermont Mercedes
- Rockport/Fulton Fire Department 401 N. 9th St. Fulton
- South Padre Island Fire/Rescue: 106 W Retama Street, South Padre Island
- South Main Baptist Church 200 Colquitt Street Houston

Public Utility Commission (PUC): All investor owned utilities have had normal ranges of outages except for CenterPoint. As of 2:30 PM, Tuesday, CenterPoint reported 54,496 electric outages in the Houston area. Since the event is ongoing in the Houston area there is not established ETR's, but CenterPoint has crews out and they are repairing outages in real time. CenterPoint is expected to have all outages restored by 8 PM, but that may change if conditions result in more outages.

FINAL COMMENTS: The SOC has decreased its readiness level to Level IV (Normal Conditions) as of 6:00 PM on January 16, 2018. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional situation reports as needed.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

- Level I (Emergency Conditions)
- Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
- Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
- Level IV (Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM Homepage at: <http://www.dps.texas.gov/dem/>

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Chief

Texas Division of Emergency Management

Division Director

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